

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07  
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /141 W  
-----126767 270402Z /12

R 261541Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6006  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST  
USDOCOSOUTH  
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T ATHENS 4376

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PLOS, EMIN, TU  
SUBJECT: TURKISH PLANS TO DRILL IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ANKARA 3977

1. WE NOT WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST THAT DORCHESTER GAS,  
AND AMERICAN FIRM, IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN PRTOLEUM EXPLORATION  
WITH A DRILLING SHIP IN THE AEGEAN SEA NEAR IZMIR. ONCE THIS  
FACT BECOMES KNOWN IN GREECE, WE ARE VERY LIKELY TO RECEIVE  
INQUIRIES BECAUSE OF THE AMERICAN CONNECTION. THEREFORE,  
WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE PLANNED EXPLORATION, ESPECIALLY THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED  
SITES.

2. A PRINCIPLE FACTOR IN THE CURRENT AEGEAN DISPUTE BETWEEN  
GREECE AND TURKEY TO DATE HAS BEEN THE ISSE OF JURISDICTION OVER  
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THE CONTINENTAL SHELF RATHER THAN CONTROL OVER WATERS. IT WAS, OF  
COURSE, THE GOT'S GRANTING OF PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS DURING  
1973 AND 1974 WHICH IN PART LED TO THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE DISPUTE.  
WHILE THE GOG WOULD NOT NECESSARILY MAKE A PUBLIC PROTEST IF  
TURKISH EXPLORATION EFFORTS ARE CONFINED ENTIRELY TO AREAS NOT  
UNDER DISPUTE, THERE WOULD LIKELY BE AN OUT CRY IN THE GREEK  
PRESS AGAINST ANY TURKISH ACTS IN THE AEGEAN.

3. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE EXISTING TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, TURKISH DRILLING IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE AEGEAN AT THIS TIME COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN ABROGATION OF PARAGRAPH SIX OF THE 1976 BERN AGREEMENT IN WHICH BOTH PARTIES AGREED TO REFRAIN FROM ANY "INITIATIVE OR ACT" WHICH MIGHT HINDER THE NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOVER, IF THE GOG JUDGED ITS LEGAL POSITION ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE WERE IN ANY WAY JEOPARDIZED BY RENEWED TURKISH ACTIVITY, SUCH A DEVELOPMENT UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD PROMPT A STRONG OFFICIAL REACTION. BUT THIS PROTEST WOULD BE DIRECTED AT AN AUDIENCE MUCH WIDER THAN JUST THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND WOULD BE AIMED AT THE BROAD OBJECTIVE OF DEFENDING GREECE'S JURIDICAL POSITION UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

MCCLOSEKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OILS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, AEGEAN SEA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** TURKISH PLANS TO DRILL IN THE AEGEAN  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PLOS, EMIN, TU, US, DORCHESTER GAS CORP  
**To:** ANKARA  
**Type:** TE  
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